



Swine Health Alert

March 29, 2019

Practice Good Biosecurity to Keep Your Swine Healthy

What you should know

Please be aware there has been a diagnosis of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) at the Ellis County Youth Expo. Though show season is coming to a close, Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) would like to remind producers and exhibitors who attended the Ellis County Youth Expo and participants at upcoming shows to practice all recommended biosecurity measures to prevent introducing the disease to their pigs at home and elsewhere.

Anytime there is congregation of swine, especially swine originating from different premises, there is an increased risk for the spread of diseases such as PEDv, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and influenza.

PEDv is highly infectious in pigs and produces acute and severe outbreaks of diarrhea and vomiting that can transmit rapidly to all swine in an area. It is important to remember this very contagious virus can be found in manure and can be transported on contaminated trucks, trailers, boots, clothing, equipment and people. The disease occurs only in pigs, is not a human health risk and has no effect on food designated for human consumption.

Establishing and following sound biosecurity practices is the cornerstone for reducing the risk of spreading these diseases. With pig shows and sales, swine owners and event organizers should consider the following to help minimize disease exposure.

Biosecurity Recommendations for Swine Owners

Prior to the event it is recommended that owners:

- Clean and disinfect truck(s) and trailer(s) thoroughly prior to the event.
- Only haul swine from the same premises, if at all possible.
- If swine are to be delivered to different premises, consider taking separate trailers, or if hauled together, maintain solid separation between pigs from different premises and minimize fecal contamination.

Prior to and during the event, organizers should consider the following:

- Clean and disinfect event area.
- If event is held on a farm, establish event area separate from production areas.
- Limit foot traffic between sale and production or holding areas.
- Designate event personnel to handle hogs during the event.



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- Maintain appropriate space between trucks and trailers to reduce the opportunity for accidental contact between swine.
- Consider separate parking areas for buyers and consigners.
- Provide and encourage the use of boot bath stations
- Use effective sanitizers, such as Synergize™, Tek-Trol®, Virkon® S and bleach solutions, mixed and used according to label directions.
- Consider establishing animal health entry requirements.
- Consider separate parking areas for clean and unclean trailers.

Event personnel should:

- Wear rubber boots or other footwear that can be cleaned and disinfected, or disposable boot covers that are changed between groups of pigs from different premises.
- Clean and disinfect hands or wear disposable gloves that are changed between groups of pigs from different premises.
- Maintain vigilance of biosecurity – encourage the use of boot baths, discourage people other than event personnel from handling swine.
- Establish a designated area away from all swine for disposable items, such as boot covers and gloves, to be collected for removal.

After the event, it is recommended that event participants:

- Isolate returning pigs from the other pigs at your farm.
 - Work with your veterinarian for an isolation plan. The isolation/observation period before returning to contact with other pigs should be no fewer than 7-30 days in order to detect an illness.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, show box and contents, and vehicles/trailers that were used at the exhibition.
- Monitor swine daily for signs of sickness; if symptoms appear, owners should consult their private veterinary practitioners.

Recommendations for isolation: (if you have other pigs at your farm)

- Isolation will allow time for pigs to be observed for disease after they return from an exhibition or sale. When pigs are in isolation, additional testing can be completed to check for diseases before pigs are added back to the rest of the farm (e.g. PRRS). Check with your veterinarian for testing recommendations.
- Have a designated area away from other pigs that have not been to a show.
- Do chores for the pigs in the isolation area as the last task of the day after you have already worked with your other pigs.
- Have dedicated boots and coveralls for isolation only. Another option is to use disposable coveralls and plastic boots for use in isolation and then thrown away when done in isolation.
- Have a separate trash can for use in isolation only.
- Supplies such as buckets and feed pans should not be shared between pigs in isolation and other animals.

This information was provided to you courtesy of the Texas Animal Health Commission.

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